

CURSE OF THE

SPAWN



13

\$1.95 US

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COMICS
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SABILE - 0801 N21

KILL

Todd McFarlane and
Image Comics presents...

HEART OF DARKNESS

STORY

Alan McElroy

PENCILS

Dwayne Turner

INKS

Danny Miki

SUPREVISOR and LETTERING

Tom Orzechowski

COLOR

Todd Broeker
Mark Nicholas

DEDICATED TO:

Tracy & Gregg Sadlon

Curse of the Spawn 12 Summary

Jessica Priest's sociopathic personality is revealed in a flashback to her childhood, her normal adult living arrangements and a demonstration of her present day abilities as a secret government assassin. In a social setting, Jason Wynn gives Priest her new assignment—to recover a biogenetic weapon coded Heart 6 from a lab in southern Brazil. The dangerous mission quickly turns deadly and although Priest eliminates much of the security force, she is captured and shot at the hands of the fraternal twin scientists, Liz Arno and Kevin Bergerger.

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AS

COMPLETE ASSEMBLY
P/N 1680-973-1862

ALPHA KIT



TODD MCFARLANE

PRODUCTIONS

www.spawn.com

MEDLAB 005...
WHERE SIBLING
LOVERS BERGREGOR
AND ARNO PLAY
WITH THE BUILDING
BLOCKS OF NATURE.

JESSICA PRIEST, TOP
OPERATIVE FOR THE A-6,
HAS BECOME THE LATEST
TOY OF THESE DEMENTED
MAVENS OF GENETIC
DAMNATION.

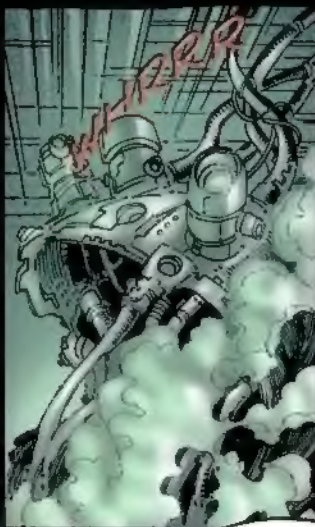
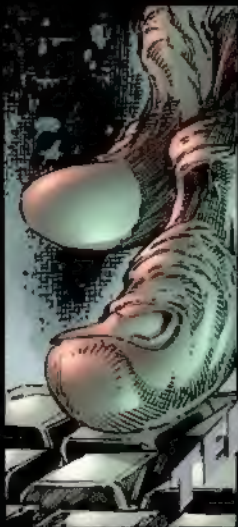
A-6 AGENTS
OBERSMITH AND
ZACKS, BLOWN
APART ON THE
MILITARY PATROL
BOAT, ARE
SUSTAINED IN NEO-
AMBIOTIC FLUID.
CELLULAR RECON-
STRUCTION HAS
ALREADY BEGUN.

SPECIMEN,
SPECIMEN, A
JOY TO BEHOLD,
SO PERFECT IN
FORM, SO
SPIRITUALLY
BOLD.

*TEEhee tee
hee*

JASON'S
PET IS A
BEAUTIFUL
KILLER. LILITH,
MEDEA, ONE OF
THE EUMENIDES.
SHE MAKES ME
TINGLE. LET'S
BEGIN.





THREE, MY LOVE. THE WITCHING NUMBER.

Hee hee.

SPECIMEN TABLE THREE, oh my BROTHER.

SHALL I PROBE HER AGAIN? CROSS-MATCH?

Oh YES. MORE SAMPLES. THE GENEOME MUST BE PRECISE. A MASTERPIECE IN THE MAKING.
Mmm

AS IT HAS BEEN FOR THE LAST SIX DAYS, THE PAIN IS EXCRUCIATING. BUT DEEP WITHIN PRIEST'S STAINED SOUL, THAT AGONY IS AS FAMILIAR AS AN OLD BLANKET.



WINSLOW
PSYCHIATRIC
CARE FACILITY.
TWENTY
YEARS AGO.

THE
THORAZINE AND
LITHIUM SHOULD
BE WORKING BY
NOW. I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

HOLD HER,
NURSE.

THE MIND IS
AN AMAZING
INSTRUMENT. IT
CAN BE USED FOR
GOOD OR ILL.

DON'T
BE AFRAID,
JESSIE. WE'RE
HERE TO HELP
FIX YOU SO
YOU WON'T
HURT ANY-
ONE EVER
AGAIN.

YOU
KILLED
YOUR PARENTS.
YOU KILLED
YOUR PETS.

AND YOU'VE
KILLED TWO
OTHER
PATIENTS.

WE
CAN'T
HAVE
THAT.

ISN'T
THAT
SETTING
A LITTLE
HIGH?

SHE
NEEDS
THIS. IT
WILL HELP
HER GET
WELL.

YOU'RE
GONNA
PAY--
YOU'RE
GONNA
PAY!

BASTARD!

ALL
OF
YOU!

YOU'RE
ALL GONNA
PAY!



WE NEED
MORE MARROW
TISSUE SAMPLES.
DON'T YOU
AGREE,
KEVIN?

Oh YES,
PLEASE,
TO THE BONE.
TEEHEE

DEEP.

THEN IT COMES. A
SOUND LIKE NONE
EVER HEARD IN
THIS PLACE OF
DEMIGODHOOD.

JESSICA PRIEST, UN-
CONSCIOUS BENEATH
LAYERS OF DEADENING
CHEMICALS AND DAYS
OF CONTROLLED
SENSORY SHORT-
CIRCUITING, CACKLES
LIKE SOMETHING THAT
LIVES ACROSS THE
RIVER STYX.

THE DEEPER THE NEEDLES
IMBED, THE GREATER PRIEST'S
HYSTERICAL GUFFAWS.
NEEDLES PIERCE BONE AND
PRIEST IS TEARY-EYED WITH
GALES OF UNSTOPPABLE
LAUGHTER.

ODD.

LIZZIE,
MAKE HER
STOP THAT
INFERNAL
CACKLING, SHE'S
SCARING
ME.

FOUR
DAYS
LATER.

MORE
TESTS,
MORE
PAIN,
MORE
LAUGHTER.

TRULY
AMAZING
ISN'T IT, KEVIN?
THE CELLS OF THE
SOLDIER,
GENETICALLY
PREDISPOSED
TO RESPOND TO
PREDACIOUS
DNA.

THEY ARE THE
BEST FERALS YET,
WOULDN'T YOU
AGREE?

Ummmm.
SWEET MEAT THAT
LIKES TO EAT. TEEHEE.
OH WHAT A BLOODY
TREAT.

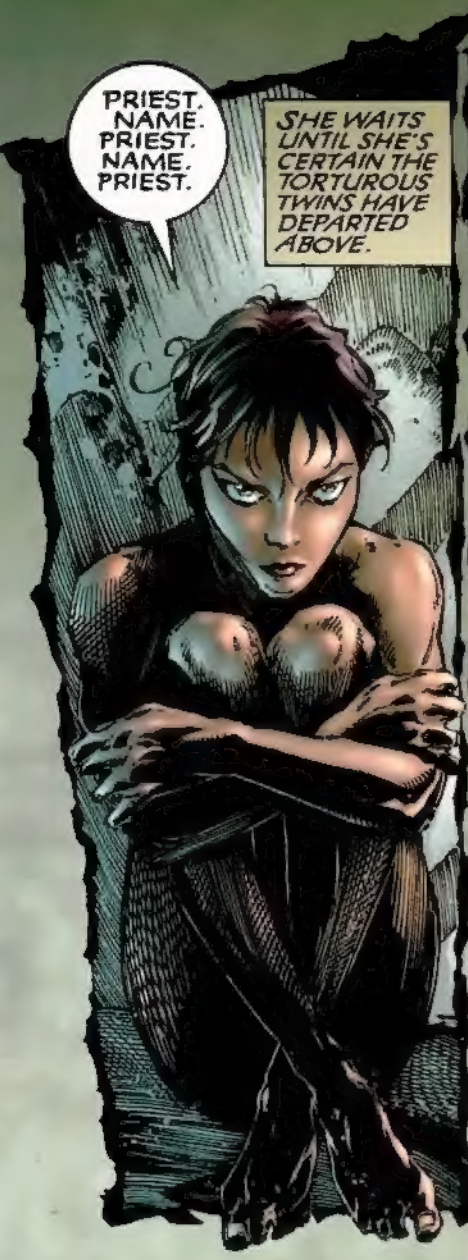
AGENT
PRIEST'S DNA HAS
TESTED THE HIGHEST OF
ALL. ONCE WE'VE COM-
PLETED RECOMBINATION
SHE WILL BE THE NEXT
LEVEL. FROM FERAL
TO FURY.

SHE'S
HALF FURY
ALREADY. FURY
FROM BIRTH. BUT NOT
PURE. WE'LL MAKE
HER PURE. OH YES.

FIRST
WE PURGE
THE WORLD WITH
HEAT-16, THEN USE
OUR BIOGEN VARIANT
NUGEN 2.07 TO REMAKE
MANKIND. IT SOUNDS
SO POMPUS.
SO HORRIBLY
CLICHE.

TRUTH
IS TRUTH--
LOFTY, BUT *oh*
SUCH A WORTHY
GOAL. DARWIN
WOULD BE MOST
APPRECIATIVE.

TEEHEE



PRIEST.
NAME.
PRIEST.
NAME.
PRIEST.

SHE WAITS
UNTIL SHE'S
CERTAIN THE
TORTUROUS
TWINS HAVE
DEPARTED
ABOVE.



TIME TO PAY THE PIPER.

HUHH.

THE THINGS
WE WOMEN PUT
IN OUR BODIES.

I CALL
THIS PMS
IN A
CAPSULE.



YOU
BOYS
DON'T
LOOK SO
GOOD.

YOU'RE
ALIVE
AGAIN,
BUT I THINK
DEAD WAS
BETTER.



CONTACT WITH
AIR BEGINS A
RAPID CHEMICAL
REACTION.



IN THE HALLWAY,
TWO BORED GUARDS
CHASE THEIR INTES-
TINES TO THE FAR
WALL.

THE
INTESTINES
WIN.

KLAYONS SOUND. ON MONITORS, ARNO AND BERGREGOR WATCH PRIEST HATCHET HER WAY THROUGH THE SENTRY POSTS.

SHE'S ON HER WAY TO THE MAIN LAB. WHAT DO WE DO?

I'M AFRAID, LIZZIE-POOH. WHAT IF SHE WANTS TO HURT US?

Ok ME
ok MY.
Skk,
KEVIN,
CALM YOURSELF,
LOVE. SHE DOESN'T
WANT US. SHE HAS
A MISSION.

NOT
EXACTLY
CHANEL,
BUT WHO
CARES.

I'LL TAKE
A .45 OVER
FERAGAMO
EVERY
TIME.

STEP
ASIDE,
PLEASE.

JESSIE ACCESSES
THE MAIN LAB'S
COMPUTER.

A CRYO-CANNISTER
HISSES OPEN AND
DISPLAYS THE
HEAT-16 NODULE.

SAFEST
PLACE.

ENTERS VARIOUS
PASS CODES
FROM MEMORY.

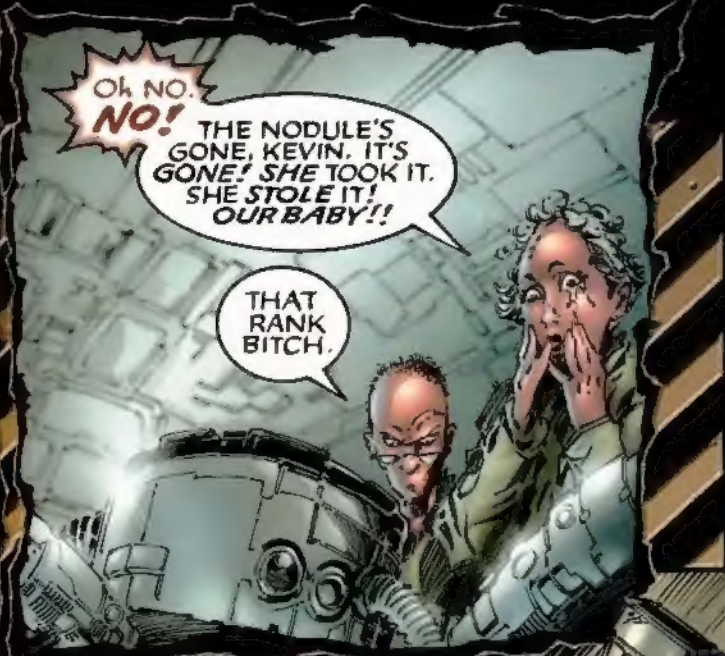
I REALLY
NEED TO START
WATCHING
WHAT I
EAT.



TOO LATE,
SHE'S BEEN
HERE.

SHE'S BEEN
HERE
AND GONE.

BLOODY
HELL.



Oh NO.
NO!

THE NODULE'S
GONE, KEVIN. IT'S
GONE! SHE TOOK IT.
SHE STOLE IT!
OUR BABY!!

THAT
RANK
BITCH.



JESSIE PICKS UP AN
AUTOCANNON
FROM A RECENTLY
DECEASED SENTRY.

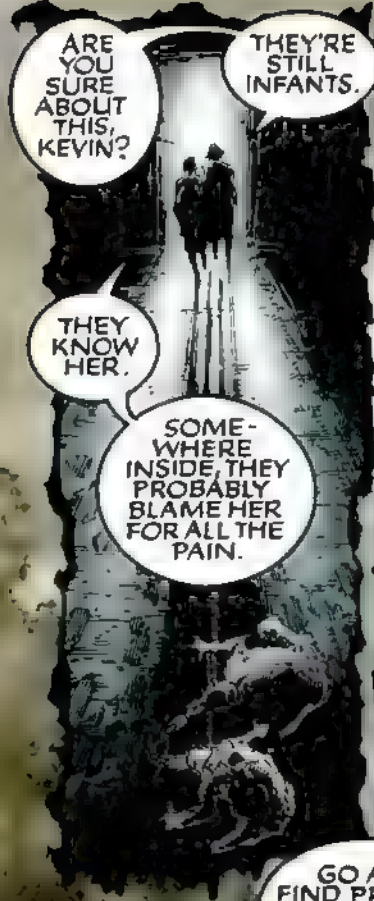
RULE
NUMBER 26.
IF YOU CAN'T
FIND AN EXIT,
MAKE ONE.



SEE YA
LATER,
ASSHOLES.
IT'S BEEN A
SLICE.

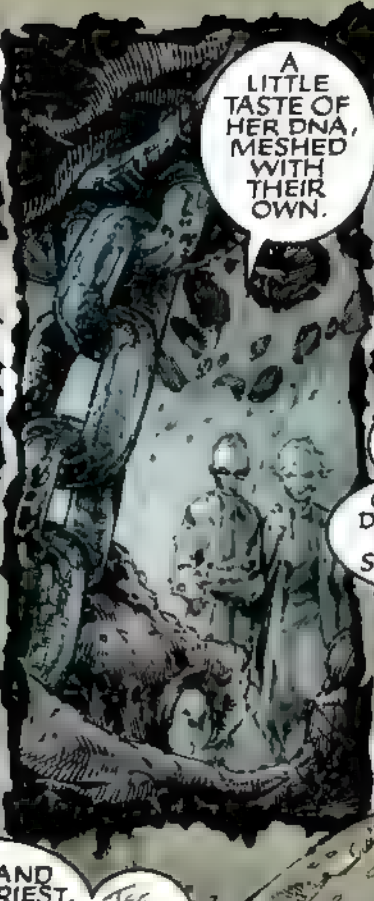


PRIEST IS
CHASED BY
TRACER FIRE
AS SHE
VANISHES
INTO THE
RAIN FOREST.



ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, KEVIN?

THEY'RE STILL INFANTS.



A LITTLE TASTE OF HER DNA, MESHED WITH THEIR OWN.

THEY KNOW HER.

SOMEWHERE INSIDE, THEY PROBABLY BLAME HER FOR ALL THE PAIN.



EAT UP.

GET EVERY DROP OF HER GENETIC SIGNATURE.



GO, Mr. OBER-SMITH, Mr. ZACKS.

GO AND FIND PRIEST. BRING HER BACK TO US.

TEE HEE.

IN AS MANY PIECES AS YOU CHOOSE.



MORE IMPORTANTLY, MY TRUCULENT CHILDREN--

--BRING BACK HEAT-16.

AFTER FOUR DAYS
IN THE JUNGLE---
SURVIVING ON
EDIBLE INSECTS,
WATER VINES AND
THE OCCASIONAL
TAPIR, PRIEST
FINDS THE TOWN
OF EL MORTE.

TATTERED, BRUISED,
SHE MAKES HER WAY
DOWN INTO A CENTURY
OLD VILLAGE THAT
SPENT ITS FIRST FIFTY
YEARS AS A LEPER
COLONY. SINCE THEN
IT HAS ONLY DEGRADED
IN MORAL STANDING.
NOW IT IS A LAWLESS
OUTPOST, TOMBSTONE
ON THE AMAZON.

I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT.

THE
SONOVABITCH
JUUKO.





HI,
JUUKO,
HOW'S
YOUR
MONKEY?

KNOW WHAT,
FORGET THE
MONKEY. LET'S
TALK ABOUT YOU.
HOW ARE YOU
DOING?

WHAT?
NOT SO
GOOD?
COULD THAT
BE BECAUSE
I'M ABOUT TO
SLIT YOUR
THROAT, YOU
MAGGOT-
ASSED
PIECE OF
CRAP?!

YES,
OKAY, YES--
PLEASE
DON'T KILL
ME.

I'M
SORRY,
OKAY?

YOU
SET US UP,
DIDN'T YOU?!!
**DIDN'T
YOU?!!**

IT WAS
BAD. I SET YOU
UP. THE MONEY
WAS SO GOOD I
COULDN'T TURN
IT DOWN, YOU
KNOW?

I'M
SORRY!

Sob

<GRAB
HER FROM
BEHIND.>

DON'T
MOVE, BITCH,
AND YOU
WON'T GET
HURT.

OOPS, I
MOVED.

#IN PORTUGUESE

FISTS AND
RIFLE BUTTS
SLAM INTO
PRIEST FROM
ALL SIDES.

GET
HER
ARMS!

YEAH,
WHO'S A
PIECE OF
CRAP NOW,
uh?

STILL
YOU.

Ooww

BUNT

THE OTHERS
WASTE NO TIME
BATTERING
PRIEST INTO
UNCONSCIOUS-
NESS.

AKA



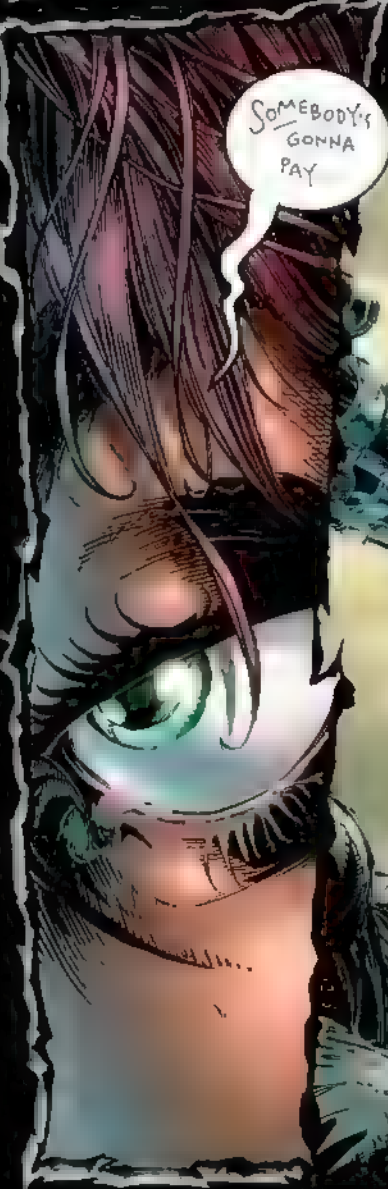
CHUG
CHUG CHUG

PRIEST LOOKS AROUND.
SEES TRAMP WORKERS
STOLEN OFF WORK
SITES, SHANGHAIED
FROM VILLAGES.

SOMEBODY'S
GONNA
PAY

«YO, TALL
DARK AND UGLY,
WHERE ARE YOU
TAKING US?
WHAT'S GOING
ON?»

SHUT
UP,
YOU
LIVE.



PRIEST BIDES HER TIME.
WATCHES AS THE RIVERBOAT
CHUGS BEYOND THE FENCE OF
SKULLS AND CONTINUES
INTO DARK WATERS.



OBERSMITH
AND ZACKS.

FERALS NOW. MONSTERS.
CONSUMING EVERY LIVING
THING THEY COME ACROSS

THEY
FOLLOW
PRIEST'S
GENETIC
SCENT.

IT LEADS
THEM TO
THE VILLAGE
OUTPOST OF
EL MORTE.

THEIR OLIFACTORY
FIBERS ARE
INFUSED WITH THE
SMELL OF LIVING
MEAT.

Heeeyah
yayayay

THE
WOMAN
FETCHED
A GOOD
PRICE, eh,
VALENTINO?

WE
GONNA
SLEEP GOOD
TONIGHT. SOME
DRINKS, A
WOMAN, A
NEW BOAT.

WHAT JULKO SEES REACHES
BACK TO THE COLLECTIVE
UNCONSCIOUS--

--A VISION
OF DEATH
MADE
FLESH.

JULKO'S ARMS
ARE TORN
FROM THEIR
SOCKETS WITH
LITTLE EFFORT.

OBERSMITH
PASSES THE
LEFT ARM TO
ZACKS. THEY
EAT AND FEED
THE DEMANDS
OF THEIR EVER
REGENERATING
BODILY
TISSUES.

Treest

AAGH!

MUNCH

GLOP

KRAK

ZACKS GOES BACK
FOR SECONDS.

Preest!

I DONNO
I DONNO,
ah God...
nooooo

Woooo

JLUKO'S DEATH SCREAM DRAWS
A CROWD FROM THE SALOON.

SALOON

THE GUNFIRE DAMAGES THE FERALS'
FLESH... SO SERVES ONLY TO FUEL
THEIR NEED FOR FRESH DNA.

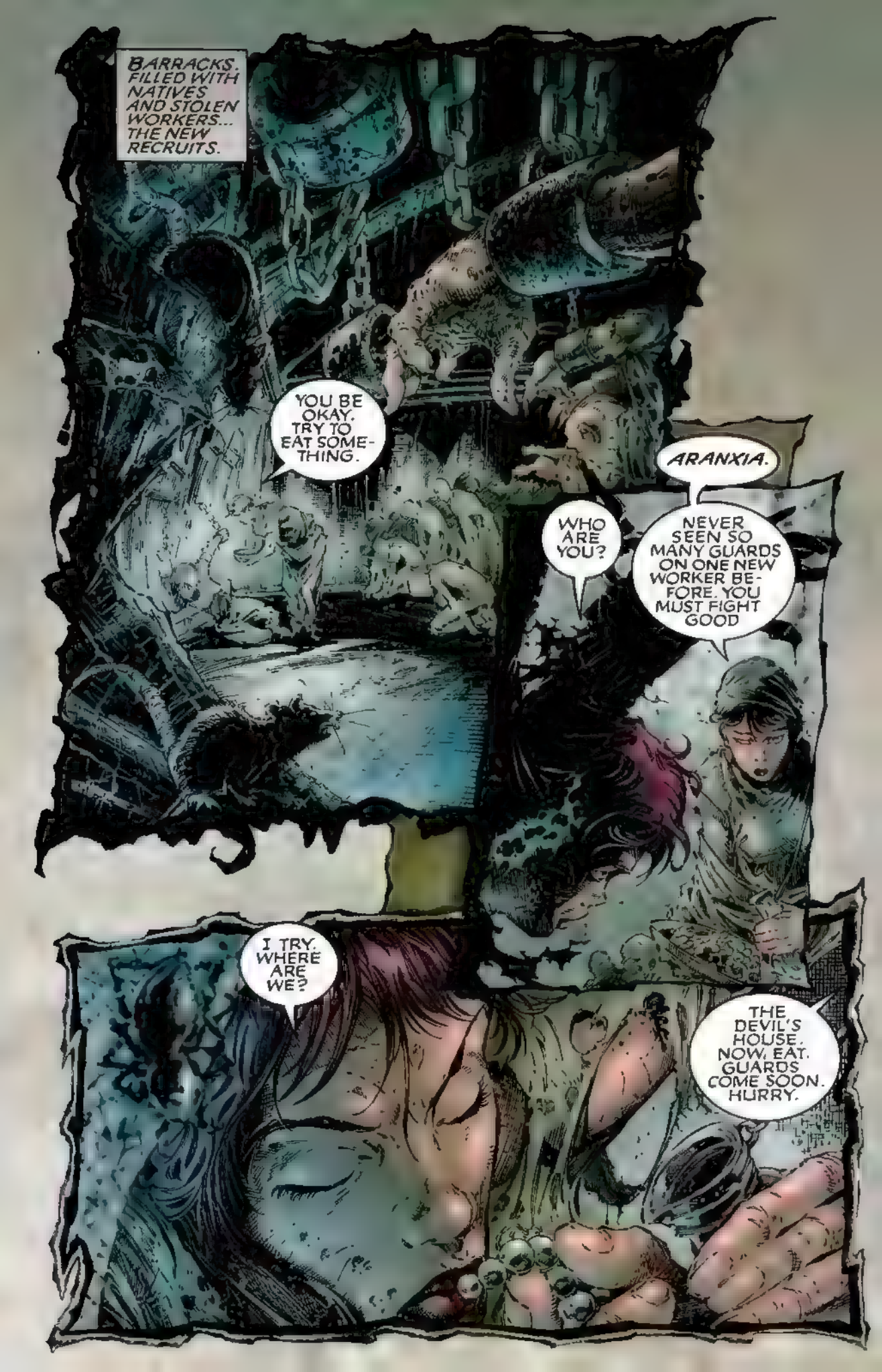
WITHIN THREE HOURS, THE VILLAGE OF EL MORTE HAS LIVED UP TO ITS NAME. NOTHING LIVES IN ITS SMOLDERING MIDST.

VALENTINO PERCHES ATOP A STACK OF NEW BONES... AFTERLIFE ARTWORK... DEATH'S MONUMENT TO A TOWN THAT IS NO MORE.

THE TWO FERALS, ONCE AGENTS OF THE C.I.A. AND THE A-6, SWIM UP-RIVER. THEY FOLLOW THE DNA TRAIL OF THEIR PREY.

Wag Wag





BARRACKS,
FILLED WITH
NATIVES
AND STOLEN
WORKERS...
THE NEW
RECRUITS.

YOU BE
OKAY.
TRY TO
EAT SOME-
THING.

ARANXIA.

WHO
ARE
YOU?

NEVER
SEEN SO
MANY GUARDS
ON ONE NEW
WORKER BE-
FORE. YOU
MUST FIGHT
GOOD

I TRY.
WHERE
ARE
WE?

THE
DEVIL'S
HOUSE.
NOW, EAT.
GUARDS
COME SOON.
HURRY.



A SQUAD OF ARMED GUARDS-- MAINLY BRAZILIAN, BUT SOME FINNISH AND SOUTH AFRICAN MERCENARIES AS WELL-- MARCH INSIDE.

⟨OUTSIDE! EVERY ONE! OUT!⟩

PRIEST IS UNHOOKED, THEN CHAINED HANDS TO FEET.

SHE GLADLY PAYS THE PRICE.



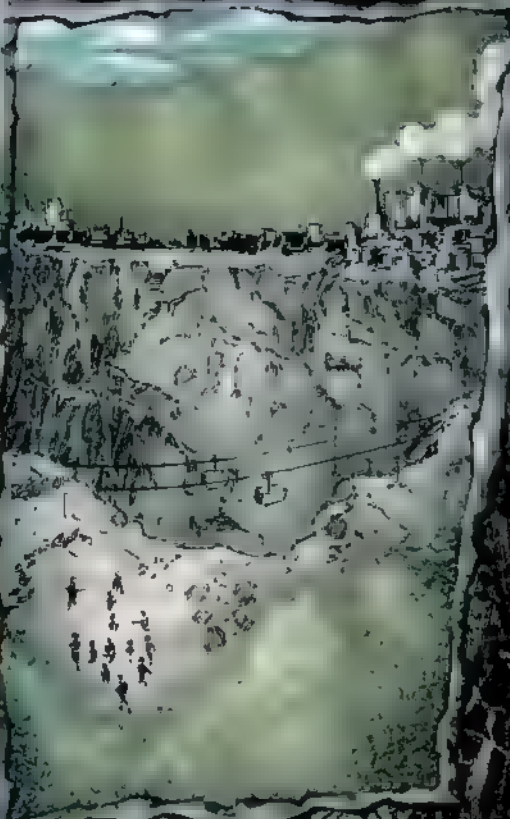
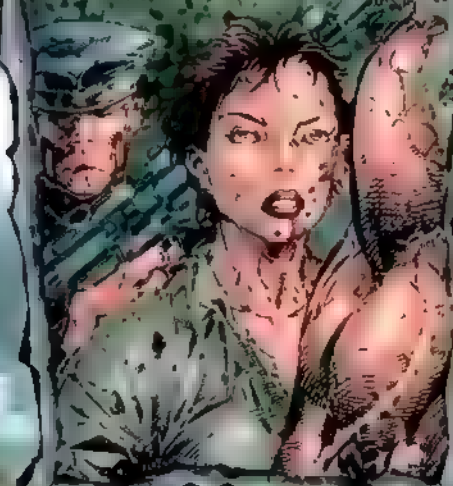
SHE TAKES A FREE SHOT AT THE NEAREST GUARD. CRACKS ONE OF HIS RIBS AT AN ANGLE THAT DRIVES IT INTO HIS LUNG.

THE TASTE OF HER OWN BLOOD FUELS PRIEST'S ANGER-ENGINE. HELPS KEEP HER FOCUSED.

MOVE ON. DOWN THE TRAIL. GO.



JESSIE REALIZES THAT SHE'S ON A LARGE COMPOUND IN THE DARK HEART OF A JUNGLE



A DEEP CRATER MINE THREE HUNDRED FEET IN DIAMETER, SURROUNDED BY OLD MAYAN TEMPLE RUINS, HAS BEEN GOUGED OUT OF THE EARTH WITH THE RAW FORCE OF SLAVE LABOR.

BELOW, WORKERS DREDGE ORE ALONG THE MULTIPLE WORK TIERS. WHEELBARROWS AND CONVEYOR BELTS LEAD TO A CRUDE PROCESSING PLANT.



ERLICH
WESTERLIN,
PAINTED LIKE
A WAURA
WARRIOR,
ADDRESSES
HIS NEW
WORKERS.

I WAS AN
ARMS DEALER
IN ANOTHER LIFE.
NOW I AM A MAN
WITHOUT A COUNTRY,
BUT NOW I HAVE THIS
MINE. A PLACE TO DRAW
OUT THE WONDROUS
U-235. HERE WE WILL
MAKE WEAPONS-
GRADE URANIUM, AND
WHEN I AM DONE, I
WILL BUY A
COUNTRY OF
MY CHOOSING.

WELCOME
TO YOUR
NEW LIFE.

BELOW, WORKERS
WITHERED BY
RADIATION SICK-
NESS, ARE TAKEN
AWAY ON PALETTES.

NO.

THE
HEAT-16
NODULE...
HOW?

WESTERLIN
SEARCHES
EVERYONE.
X-RAYS, METAL
DETECTORS.
NOTHING
ESCAPES HIM.

DEATH
COMES IN
VERY SMALL
PACKAGES.

B l a h B l a h B l a h

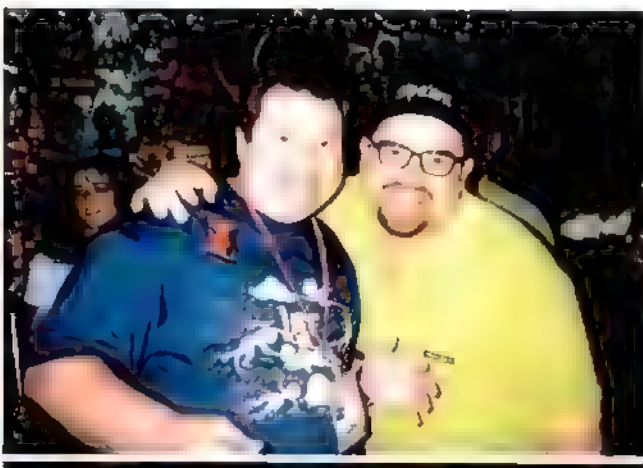
BlahBlahBlah_60
w/terry fitzgerald
tdfitz@aol.com

So. A lot has happened since last blah. To date the soundtrack is still in the top 15 on the Billboard charts and has sold over 600,000 copies worldwide to date! Here in America alone, we've sold just over 360,000 copies! Thanks to everyone who picked it up. As a very early tease, Al Masocco (Epic's coolest guy) and I are in early negotiations to produce a second and final variant cover to the soundtrack for all those who missed the first one. Hint: it will feature a Christmas theme and will ship around Thanksgiving. expect them to sell fast due to very limited run. And what about vinyl? How about the entire soundtrack on three pieces! Looks like we might have a few thousand pieces available in the coming months... will update.

The movie has topped \$55 million here in North America and is set to tear up the charts internationally. In its first weekend in Hong Kong, the picture brought in over HK\$3 million. Next month I'll have figures for the United Kingdom, Israel, Philippines and Venezuela. All other countries will follow throughout the Fall and Winter 1997.

The HBO animated video has sold incredibly well, in fact better than anyone's expectations. To date we've sold well over a half million copies and there's no end in sight. Our first week out, we were number two for sell-through videos and this week we were number three! Not too shabby for an animated video that wasn't on a Saturday morning network. HBO Home Video has decided to release the series on DVD as well, so all of you techies (like myself) who are so equipped, expect to see the DVD on shelves around mid-October.

I was at the Magic show last week in Las Vegas, which is the apparel convention. I visited with our four t-shirt licensees and all have had great success with their Spawn lines. For two of the four the Spawn line outsells all other lines, including names like Simpsons, Batman & Robin, X-Files, major rock groups, etc. Expect to continue to see new designs hitting the shelves in time for the holiday season and throughout 1998.



The photo you ask? Well it's our trading card licensee and myself at the San Diego Comic Con this past July. Allan Caplan is one mad man. I've partied with a lot of strange individuals, but Allan takes the cake. He and I tore up Las Vegas about two weeks after the con, during the VSDA show. (Video Software Distributors' Association) In order to get into a crowded restaurant, I passed off Allan as the producer of the "Men in Black" movie. It worked like a charm.

I'm off to Europe tomorrow for a bunch of meetings and shows, will update next "blah".

Looking forward to hockey season, now that the Canucks have made themselves contenders once again. Look for a lot from the "orca boys" this season. Can't wait to see Messer lacing 'em up for the home team. Anyone want to place a bet or two this year?!? What about you Ranger fans?

-until next month...terry.fitzgerald

p.s. I just heard a good friend of mine's mother passed away last month. Jenny Jen, I am sorry to hear the news, and I hope you always remember all the warm memories you two had together... all my best and my love as always.

Curse Words

Curse Words

P.O. Box 27228 Tempe AZ 85285-7228

www.spawn.com

At the bottom of this letter column you'll find the cover art for this issue presented in its original state without any logos or background effects.

Dear Mr. Todd McFarlane,

You are a GENIUS!!! And I'm really hooked on Spawn but I just found out about him a month ago (thanks to Game Informer) how cool was Reiner? I like to start at the beginning so I'm trying to get current on 5 years of Spawn stuff.

I've read all the Curse of the Spawn and it rules!! The best art I've seen in my life. How long does it take Mr. Miki and Mr. Turner to finish a book that has such incredible detail? Plus, it adds to the dark tale. I always wanted the bad guy to win just once. Now I have NO complaints whatsoever. Everything is absolutely perfect!! Keep it up! I have some questions I would like answered, if you please.

As I stated, I started collecting late and saw an ad for your toy club. But I said Gold members get a free Red Angela. If I join today (can I still?) do I still get a Red Angela? If not, do I get anything else. Not to sound greedy or anything but I wish you would still give to members. Please!

Are you going to have any other deals like you did in the Blood Feuds for cards and other stuff like that?

You have T-shirts out as I read in COTS #2 questions. Where can I find them? Where are they in your catalog? And can I get Spawn jerseys anywhere?

Where did you get your idea for Spawn? Also, many times in your comics are stuff relating to scriptures. Did you learn this as a kid or someone told you? Also, did you ever use a "Satanic Bible" or "Bible" for reference? And are you Christian, religious or Satanic?

And lastly, if I can't get a Red Angela now 'cause I joined too late, can I get it anywhere/anytime else? I really want it for my collection and I'm sure a lot of other people do too. So, I think you should keep giving them to Gold members no matter when they join! Pretty, pretty PLEASE??!!

I really like the way you don't exploit him, (your character) like Spiderman, Batman, etc. That's why I never heard of him and why everyone likes him. Thanks for making it possible for people like me (a punk teenager who can't hold a buck for 5 minutes) to keep up on comics and toys and not have 20 million monthly-series that are basically the same like Spiderman, Batman, etc. But going on his image instead of trying to make a buck on him every chance you get. Thanks, and yet you make so much money in the process.

Just one request could you please have a Spawn/Power Rangers team up and when they get in trouble have Spawn bail so clown can disembowel and decapitate the mothers. Sorry, I really hate the Power Rangers. Also, I have a couple of ideas for T-shirt designs but don't know what to say 'cause I don't know if you will get offended if a mere kid gives you advice like so many adults I know? I would like to thank the coolest man alive (next to Will Smith) for taking time to listen to a little old nobody like me. Thanks a million!

Let me see if we can't answer some of your questions in some sort of order. Everybody involved with the Curse book has a monthly deadline just like on any other regular selling title so the amount of detail you see in the art work has to be completed within the confines of the monthly grind. Danny and Wayne have just found a way to be able to put in the extra effort and still have the book come out when it is supposed to. The obvious answer is, they both work lots of hours every day. There are lots of other artists out there that should try that. They might actually be surprised at what happens when you physically work.

Concerning your question about the Red Angela: the way it works is anyone who signed up gets whatever exclusive toy we're offering while supplies last. If you were to sign up today, since we've run out of our supply of Red Angelas, you would get the next current offer being made. Unfortunately, you'll have to go hunting for a Red Angela if you mean to acquire one.

As for your other inquiry, I am neither religious nor satanic but merely alive. I don't really dwell upon where I came from or where I'm going. I suppose that if there is a greater entity out there and it wanted us to have the answers, then given that they created the cosmos, it would be a simple matter to make us understand. Therefore, either there isn't anything out there or we're meant to be ignorant about it and I'm pretty secure in my own ignorance. With all that said and done, it doesn't preclude me from putting a spin on a subject matter that everyone has some sort of opinion on.

You can find the Spawn T-shirts at Musicland, Sears, Spencers or by mail order from BMG or Columbia House. The hockey jerseys are now available through the McFarlane Toys Collector Club in the latest newsletter that is currently being mailed out.

Dear Curse Words,

At first I was convinced that the Danielle Llanos story line was the best Curse of the Spawn story arc I've read. But the current Angela story is making me re-evaluate my opinion. The tale of how Angela came to be in Curse of the Spawn #9 was surprisingly original for a comic book character. Then again, I suppose Alan McEroy couldn't use such hackneyed concepts as genetic mutation or accidental radiation exposure in Angela's origin since she is an angel. No, Alan decided to recount the lives of five very different women whose experiences made their souls prime choices to be merged together to form Angela. All of these women were easy to sympathize with even though I've never been through any of the hardships they endured. Like Josh Wentz from COTS #11 letters page, I was asking myself how Angela could be made from souls of various time periods. However, this "discrepancy" became very logical after COTS #10 explained that Elysium touches the time stream at many points simultaneously. (Incidentally, I like how Heaven's capital is named after the Elysian Fields. Very sick use of Greek mythology.)

Angela's training and preparation to become a hunter-angel was also fascinating including the scene where she gets her permits. I would think God's decree is all the authorization an angel would need to hunt and destroy a HellSpawn. I wonder what would happen if an angel lost any of these permits?

Since this is a Spawn comic, there has to be some action and this COTS story arc doesn't disappoint. The most memorable battle was Angela versus Lilith in the ultimate example of sibling rivalry. (Boy, it's going to be fun learning Lilith's back story when Alan or Todd McFarlane get around to it.)

One of your biggest fans
Josh Litwicks, Age 13
West Allis, WI

A close second was the flashback of the Angela/Neanderthal Spawn fight because I could not believe how brutal this angel can be. In some ways, Angela makes Wolverine look like a wuss.

On top of this, Angela and presumably Spawn and Cogliostro have to contend with the Mysterious Deurges. Though he hasn't done much overtly, I still get this sense that Deurges is one of the most fearsome villains to appear in a Spawn comic. This is a compliment to Dwayne Turner's pencils which imparts the right amount of evil in Deurges' gaze. The villain's eyes also imply he is the only one who really knows what is going on, especially how he is connected to Angela and Lilith. Throw in some humor like Callindra's doubts about Bob Custer's "placement," and you have a great fantasy tale.

I do have a couple of complaints. In COTS #9, the overseers in the Ancient Egypt story were called minotaurs. The overseers are actually centaurs since they are part man, part horse. Also, in COTS #11, it wasn't clear to me why Angela shattered the Elysian lock.

I know I'm stretching out this letter, but I must comment on Spawn the movie. What stunned me most was how the differences between the comic and movie versions of the characters were pretty minimal. Michael Jai White effectively expressed Spawn's longing to be reunited with Wanda and his confusion over the kind of being he now is. And Michael had to pull this off under a ton of make-up that makes him look like Freddy Krueger's twin. The guy who pretty much steals the show is Clown, whose obnoxious, hateful personality is deftly brought to life by John Leguizamo. Even those characters which changed noticeably were acceptable because the actors had an understanding of their roles. D.B. Sweeney appreciated that, no matter the difference in skin color, Terry Fitzgerald is a diehard desk jockey who still cares for his family and is willing to stand up to a man as dangerous as Jason Wynn. Jessica Priest also stuck in my mind because Melinda Clarke could bring out deadly sexual allure in her character that Chapel can't match since he's male. I could have read too much into this but I wondered if the feelings Priest had toward Wynn went beyond mere loyalty.

Then, there are the special effects. I loved the design of the Spawn costume because it appeared to consist of some weird muscle tissue, giving it a very organic look. The feats Spawn could perform with his costume were similar to those in the comic except with a bit more pizzazz courtesy of ILM. My favorite cape effects include Spawn crashing through the skylight, him blending with the wall of the embassy and him gliding off into the night. The last effect was awesome since the sheer size of the cape made the airborne Spawn look like some bizarre aircraft instead of yet another flying caped superhero. Perhaps the most surprising non-cape effect was Spawn's belt extending out to catch Priest's leg as she tried to kick him in the groin. Not to be outdone, Clown also showed off some cool CGI tricks most notably his transformation into the Violator. That was the wildest and most grotesque morph I've ever seen. Despite the effects, the movie does have an actual story based on the dual themes of moving forward after a tragic loss and remembering that life is a series of choices.

One thing I observed was Spawn didn't seem as concerned about using his powers and thus lose more life energy as he is in the comic. This was especially evident in the battle in Hell where Spawn wipes out scores of lesser Hellspawn with energy blasts then transports himself and Cog back to Earth. Either of these stunts would burn up a lot of energy which begs the question if this fact will come back to haunt Spawn.

The only gripe I have about Spawn the movie is Jason Wynn seemed to be frequently overshadowed by Clown's antics. Hence, Wynn's skill as a manipulator and schemer did not show through very well. Since sequels to this movie will likely be made, one of them could feature Wynn as the principal villain so it's clearer why Spawn views him as a threat despite his lack of superpowers.

Speaking of sequels, I'd like to suggest that future Spawn movies should not be slightly altered versions of the first. The reason the Batman films have been declining in quality and box office receipts is that they follow the same formula: Batman + 1 sidekick (at least) + supervillains (at least) + love interest for Bruce Wayne who will be forgotten by the next sequel. Instead, a Spawn sequel might feature more real-to-life villains (Billy Kincaid, the Ku Klux Klan) or feature more human drama like the excellent story in Spawn #50. (You wouldn't believe what I went through to get that issue.) Such a strategy will not only prevent Spawn movie fans from becoming bored, but also further distinguish these films from other comic book movies.

I must say 1997 is turning out to be a great year for Spawn. Curse of the Spawn is currently presenting a story arc on one of the most intriguing

supporting character in Spawn, Angela. Spawn the movie not only has done well at the box office, but is also causing people to check out the comic that inspired it. Well, that's true in the DC Metro area. I can't speak for the rest of the country. And the Spawn cartoon has garnered surprisingly large ratings. Yep, Spawn is certainly on his way to becoming a multi-media sensation.

Sincerely,
Frederick D. Weaver
Washington, DC

You don't leave me very much to comment on given the vast glowing report I received from you. But I'm sure that Alan McElroy will appreciate your comments as much as I do concerning the book and the movie considering he had a huge part in bringing your enjoyment to each one of those, not to mention his participation in the HBO series. We're hoping to build on the momentum we've created this year and I guarantee you that nobody wants to repeat the same formula if we end up doing the movie sequel. There are too many other new venues to try without having to do the same thing again.





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All of these characters should start appearing in stores the end of September. Coming up next month: **Manga Spawn**.

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CornBoy fights on the side of the Accord, using his Indiana-bred skills. Add in the cybernetically-enhanced muscles and the huge missile launcher, and he's a force to be reckoned with. Deep down, he's a nice guy, but he can't stand two things: members of the Domain, and anyone else who makes fun of his ponytail.

BrainDrain is one of our scier monsters, and has a multitude of articulation. He comes from a planet of pure evil where he was the Supreme Predator. With bendable tail and posable arms, he looks menacing whether he's slithering through the dense undergrowth or attacking from the air. In his head is a clear dome filled with venom for any member of the Accord that's unlucky enough to be captured by his claws.

Butz is up next. "Red Dog" Miller was a football player on Earth until the fateful day he was chosen by the Accord to fight the Domain. Now he's both defensive and offensive. He takes his game playing seriously, and comes with a removable set of robotic armor. His turrets have full 360-degree rotation so quarterback sneaks can't surprise him.





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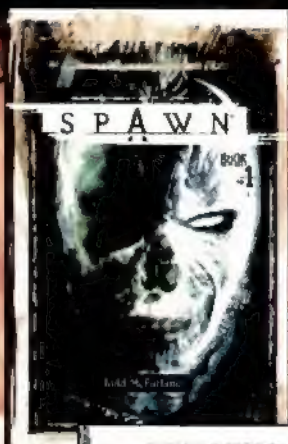
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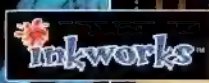
Spawn, the ground breaking animated program from HBO, will be available in both the Special Edited Edition (PG-13) and the Uncut Collector's Edition (for Mature Audiences) everywhere videos are sold as of August 5th, 1997.



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